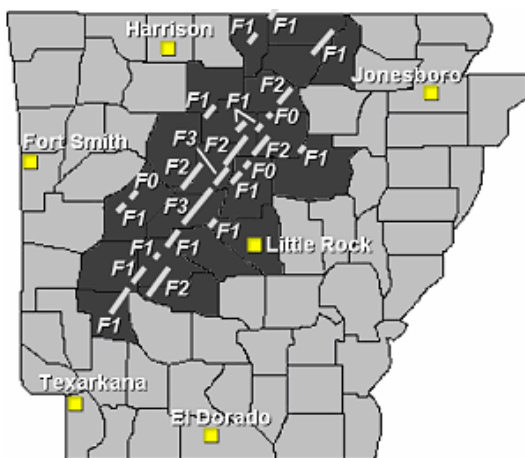




Don't Miss That Call



On November 27, 2005...a large severe weather outbreak occurred in Arkansas. There were 24 tornadoes spawned, and extensive structural damage...but only 1 fatality. While the death toll was low, it could have been higher if not for the telephone. How come?

In the picture: Where tornadoes tracked on November 27, 2005.

When the National Weather Service surveyed storm damage in tornado ravaged areas, a number of people admitted they found out about Tornado Warnings through phone calls from loved ones. It is likely that the phone calls were not made immediately after the warnings were issued. Fortunately, warning lead times (before tornadoes arrived in any one location) averaged 22.5 minutes...well above the national average. If lead times were much less, would the phone calls have come too late?

It Won't Happen To Me

It is believed that the slow response to warnings may have been due in part to a lack of severe weather (especially tornadoes)

Some of the strongest thunderstorm winds reported during 2005 included:

98 mph at Kerr (Lonoke Co.).

86 mph at Pocahontas (Randolph Co.).

81 mph from Centerton to Bentonville (Benton Co.), Holiday Island (Carroll Co.), Barling (Sebastian Co.), a second time at Centerton (Benton Co.), and 2 miles southeast of Ozark (Franklin Co.)

79 mph at Fort Smith (Sebastian Co.).

75 mph near Eros (Marion Co.), at Crossett (Ashley Co.) and at Rector (Clay Co.).



In the picture: A barn was blown onto Highway 125 near Eros (Marion County) by damaging straight-line winds during the evening of 01/12/2005. The picture is courtesy of Randy Ates.

Winds such as these occur every year due to thunderstorms in Arkansas, and damage associated with such winds is often mistaken for tornado damage.



Large Hail

No deaths or injuries due to hail were reported in Arkansas in 2005.

The largest hailstones reported during the year included:

2½ inches in diameter (tennis ball size) at Hot Springs Village (Garland Co.).

2 inches in diameter (lime size) at Blytheville (Mississippi Co.) and Jessieville (Garland Co.).